

District Judge Benjamin H. Settle

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT TACOMA

VICTORIA VERDES,

Plaintiff,

v.

MERRICK GARLAND, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:24-cv-05862-BHS

STIPULATED MOTION TO  
HOLD CASE IN ABEYANCE AND  
ORDER

Noted for Consideration:  
December 20, 2024

Pro Se Plaintiff and Defendants, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 6 and Local Rules 7(d)(1), 10(g) and 16, jointly stipulate and move to stay these proceedings through April 28, 2025. Plaintiff brought this litigation pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act and Mandamus Act to compel U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”) to adjudicate her asylum application. Defendants’ response to the Complaint is currently due on January 6, 2025. Good cause exists for this stay. The parties are currently working towards a resolution to this litigation.

Courts have “broad discretion” to stay proceedings. *Clinton v. Jones*, 520 U.S. 681, 706 (1997). “[T]he power to stay proceedings is incidental to the power inherent in every court to control the disposition of the causes on its docket with economy of time and effort for itself, for

1 counsel, and for litigants.” *Landis v. N. Am. Co.*, 299 U.S. 248, 254 (1936); *see also* Fed. R. Civ.  
2 P. 1.

3 With additional time, this case may be resolved without the need of further judicial  
4 intervention. USCIS has scheduled Plaintiff’s asylum interview for February 12, 2025. USCIS  
5 agrees to diligently work towards completing the adjudications within 75 days of the interview,  
6 absent unforeseen or exceptional circumstances that would require additional time for  
7 adjudication. If the adjudication is not completed within that time, USCIS will provide a status  
8 report to the Court. Plaintiff will submit all supplemental documents and evidence, if any, to  
9 USCIS seven to ten days prior to the interview date. Plaintiff recognizes that failure to submit  
10 documents prior to the interview may require the interview to be rescheduled and the adjudication  
11 delayed. If needed, Plaintiff will bring an interpreter to the interview, otherwise the interview will  
12 need to be rescheduled and the adjudications delayed. Once the application is adjudicated, Plaintiff  
13 will dismiss the case. Accordingly, the parties request this abeyance to allow USCIS to conduct  
14 Plaintiff’s asylum interview and then process her asylum application.

15 As additional time is necessary for this to occur, the parties request that the Court hold the  
16 case in abeyance until April 28, 2025. The parties will submit a status update on or before April  
17 28, 2025.

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1 DATED this 20th day of December, 2024.

2 Respectfully submitted,

3 TESSA M. GORMAN  
4 United States Attorney

5 s/ Michelle R. Lambert  
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15 *Attorneys for Defendants*

16 *I certify that this memorandum contains 358 words,*  
17 *in compliance with the Local Civil Rules*

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24 *Pro Se Plaintiff*

**ORDER**

The case is held in abeyance until April 28, 2025. The parties shall submit a status update on or before April 28, 2025. It is so **ORDERED**.

DATED this 20th day of December, 2024.



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BENJAMIN H. SETTLE

United States District Judge